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R. P. Hyman
9/5/1999

P17856

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : M. ASAI et al.

Serial No : Not Yet Assigned (National Stage of PCT/JP97/04684)

Filed : Concurrently Herewith

For : PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARDS AND METHOD OF PRODUCING THE
SAME

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND COVER LETTER
SUBMITTING AMENDED PAGES OF APPLICATION

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Enclosed please find a copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report - Form PCT/IPEA/409 (hereinafter "Report") which was drawn on the originally filed description and drawings, and claims 1-21 as filed on December 19, 1996, and includes as an Annex amended pages 6, 6-1, and 16 of the specification and amended pages 48-51 including claims 1-21.

Based upon the submission of amended sheets of specification and claims, Applicants respectfully request examination on the merits of the application containing the amended pages.

Additionally, prior to the calculation of the filing fees and examination of the above-identified application including the replacement pages, it is respectfully requested to amend the replacement pages of the claims as follows to remove multiple dependent claims.